THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The terms of Working Group on Gold Policy and Gold Control Machinery etc. have been extended upto 30.9.1986 and 31.12.1986 respectively, by which time it is likely that they would submit their reports.

Trade Deficit

1966. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the trade deficit of the country in the financial year 1985-86 and upto the end of July, 1986; and

(b) what are the proposals of Government to meet the trade deficit in the Budget of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) On the basis of provisional figures, released by Ministry of Commerce, the trade deficit amounted to Rs. 7951 crores during 1985-86. The corresponding information for the current financial year is not available as yet.

(b) A variety of measures have been adopted by Government to boost exports and enhance domestic production of importables. These measures, *inter alia*, include abolition of export duty on some items, reduction in import duty on number of items of raw materials, components, machinery and equipment for export-potential industrial, steps to boost the indigeneous production of edible oils, a new Cash Compensatory Scheme since 1.7.1986 and reduction in the rate of interest on credit for exports etc.

Provision of Cheap Textile Products for Poor People

1967. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide cheap textile products to the poor people who are living below poverty line;

(b) what is the minimum price of the textile products which can be used by the common people; and

(c) whether the National Textile Corporation proposes to undertake any market study for ascertaining the types of textile products required by the people living in different parts of the country; if so, what are details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Controlled cloth scheme to provide cheap textile products for the poor people, is already in operation, in the country. The total quantum of controlled cloth p roduction is at present being shared by National Textile Corporation and the Handloom Sector.

(b) The minimum consumer prices of main varieties of controlled cloth produced by NTC and meant for the weaker section of the society are as under:

(In Rs.)

Variety	Price per sq. meter.
Dhoty/Saree:	
Grey dhoty	2·80
Bleached dhoty . . .	3·87
Bleached Saree . . .	3·28

(*in Rs*)

Variety	Price per sq. mtr.
Printed Saree	5·16
Grey calendered	3·61
Long Cloth:	
Pleached long cloth	4·13
Medium dyed long cloth	6·11
Dark dyed long cloth	6·41
Printed long cloth	6·57
Polyester cotton shirting	
	Price per linear mtr.
bleached	10·50
Dyed	11·50
Printed	12·00

Apart from above, NTC is producing cheap cloth and "Sulabh" fabrics, retail price for which is as below:

(*In Rs*)

	Price per mtr.	
Cheap cloth		7·31*
"Sulabh" shirting (Ranges from)	159·0	17.90
"Sulabh" suiting (Ranges from)	38·00	42·90

*inclusive of all trade margins.

(c) Study is always made on the market conditions before introducing textile for sale in different parts of the country. This is based on the feed-back from the retail showrooms, dealers/agents tastes and perferences of the consumers and movement of goods in a particular area.

Import of coins

1968. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:
PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to import coins due to severe shortage thereof in the country;

(b) if so, in what denominations the shortage is more at present;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to produce coins below 10 paise using high density and durable plastic materials; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to import blanks and press them into coins in our mints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) There has been a general shortage of coins in the country. Production in the Mints has been substantially increased. To supplement domestic production, a total quantity of 4000 million pieces of coins in the denominations of Re. 1, 50p. and 25p. has been arranged for import during 1985 to 1987.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Branch Licensing Policy

1969. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India regarding branch licensing policy for